

OWI Enforcement Training Course Information

Tier 1: Standardized Field Sobriety Testing

The foundation of all impaired driver detection training, and the first tier of Michigan's enforcement curriculum is Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST). The SFST program trains law enforcement officers to identify and assess drivers suspected of being impaired by alcohol. Officers will learn how to correctly administer, interpret, and document the SFST battery during a traffic stop, increasing their proficiency in arresting drunk drivers and the likelihood of obtaining a successful conviction.



SFST training consists of 24 hours of lecture and hands-on instruction. It is strongly recommended officers attend a four-hour SFST refresher course once every four years.

Tier 2: Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement

The second tier of impaired driver detection training, the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE) program, provides officers with introductory knowledge about drugs and their potential effect on drivers.

ARIDE trained officers are better able to determine if a driver is under the influence of alcohol, drugs, and/or alcohol drug-combinations in order to take the appropriate enforcement action.

Officers will learn how to identify and document signs of drug impairment during 16 hours of lecture and hands-on instruction. Training also includes an overview of the observable effects of drug abuse and an introduction to the seven drug categories.

Tier 3: Drug Recognition Expert



The final tier of the impaired driver detection curriculum is the Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) training program. The DRE program is for highly motivated road officers who are active in OWI enforcement. The program provides academically challenging training designed to enhance an officer's ability to identify, evaluate, and document suspected drug impairment.

DRE students will learn about the seven drug categories, human physiology, and signs and symptoms as they relate to the drug impaired driver. DRE students will also learn how to conduct a standardized and systematic 12-step evaluation of a subject suspected of being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, and/or drug-alcohol combinations to determine the category or categories of the drugs causing the impairment.

DRE training consists of three phases. Phase I and II involve two weeks of lecture and hands-on instruction. Phase III involves 40 hours of field training during which students are required to perform evaluations on subjects known to be under the influence of drugs. This phase typically occurs at an out-of-state location.

A DRE certification is valid for two years. To recertify, DREs must complete four enforcement evaluations, one DRE instructor-supervised evaluation, and eight hours of DRE-related continuing education classes.